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BISON

A HARDING UNIVERSITY STUDENT PUBLICATION

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Pell Grant sees changes

Bush's call for increases, Department of Education's revision of aid program may affect some students in fall

JULIE PYE
student reporter

President George W. Bush announced Jan. 14 that he will ask Congress to increase Pell Grants by \$100 per year for five years, according to the Associated Press.

That proposal would raise the maximum grant available to qualifying Harding students to \$4,550 by 2010, up 12 percent from the \$4,050 offered today.

Although the Pell Grant system, which applies to students of no- and low-income families and to some students from mid-income families, currently has a \$4.3 billion deficit, Bush said the increases can be made if taxpayer money is used wisely.

Jon Roberts, director of Student Financial Services, said Bush's proposal to increase individual award amounts by \$500 over five years has the potential to affect more than 1,000 Harding students.

Approximately 95 percent of current Harding students depend on some means of financial assistance, Roberts said. Among those, 1,250 students qualify to receive a Pell Grant.

In a separate issue, however, Congress announced in December that the Department of Education was revising the way in which Pell Grant eligibility is calculated.

The formula change, which involves updating tax tables, translates to approximately 90,000 previously eligible students nationwide not receiving any Pell Grant money next fall, according to the AP.

While the updated tax tables will affect the entire nation, the extent to which the update changes students' offerings will be largely based on location.

"It depends on what state you live in," Roberts said. "The only thing that was changed is the gov-

ernment's estimate of how much a family in the state pays for state taxes.

"If you live in Arkansas, the government assumes 5 percent of income is going to the state," Roberts said. "While if you live in Texas, they're assuming that 2 percent of your income is going to the state."

"The changes in some states are as high as 4 percent. In the rest of the states, it's only 1 or 2 percent, but every middle-income family loses."

Because many students are from southern states, they could be affected greater than other students from states such as New Jersey, who won't experience any change, Roberts said.

"If anything, more people should get...governmental aid. Every little bit...helps when you're faced with paying the bill."

MELANIE SWITZER,
JUNIOR

Junior Melanie Switzer said she doesn't think fewer people should receive financial grants.

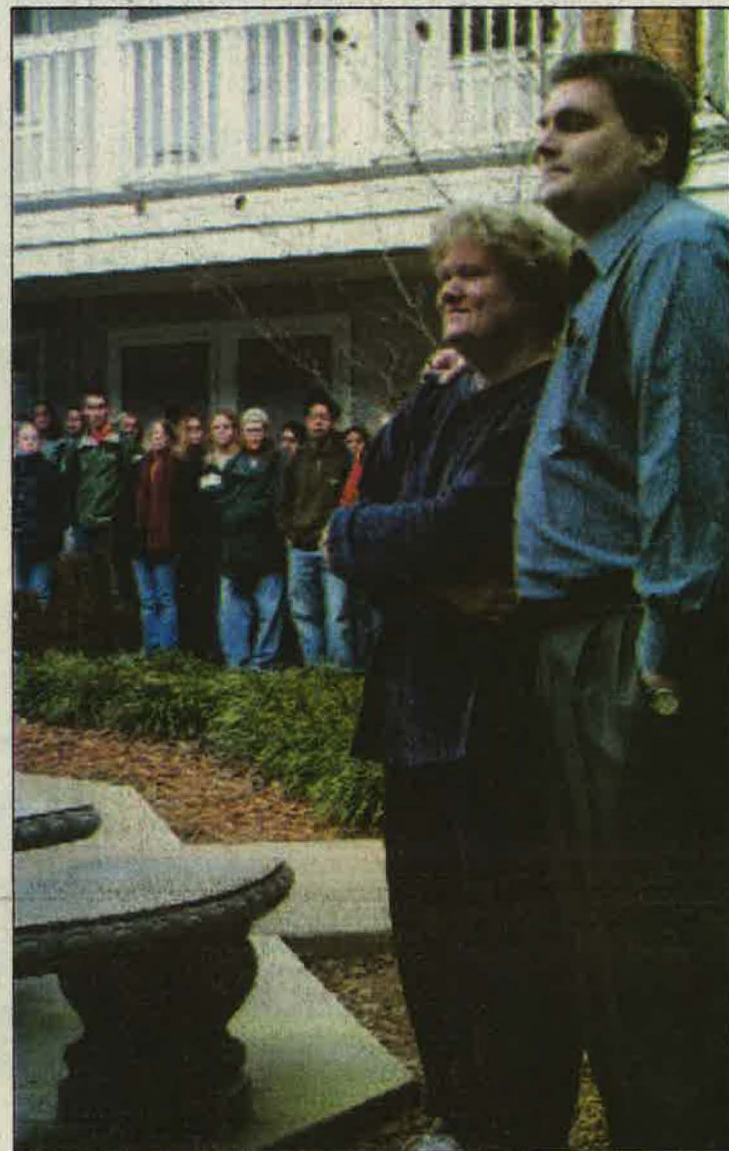
"If anything, more people should get a part of the governmental aid," Switzer said. "Every little bit of money helps when you're faced with paying the bill."

However, junior Mike Beck said he thinks Bush's plan to increase Pell Grants is a step to furthering a governmental finance increase for education assistance in the future.

"I'm glad President Bush is focusing more on educational grants," Beck said. "I just hope [the changes don't] cause too many students to lose their grants in the end."

"Arkansas students will be seeing a greater impact than our Texas students," Roberts said. "But we have a pretty fair number that will be impacted from low-income families. 'On one hand, it's fair and on the other hand, it means that low-income families are not getting as much free aid needed.'"

Junior Melanie Switzer



RUSSELL KECK/Petit Jean

Goodbye wishes

Kevin and Tania Davis, residence life coordinators in Shores Hall, embrace as the students sing in the dorm's courtyard Jan. 27. More than 1,000 students bid an after-chapel surprise farewell to the Davises, who had to move due to a family emergency.

SpongeBob video sparks homosexual debate



SpongeBob is a trademark of Viacom International Inc.

Illustration: Chelsea Roberson/The Bison

AMY IRELAND
student reporter

The popular cartoon character SpongeBob SquarePants is the center of a heated debate regarding a music video in which the character appears that will be sent to 61,000 schools in March.

The nonprofit We Are Family Foundation made the video, which is a remake of the 1979 hit song, "We are Family." The video includes SpongeBob, Barney and Winnie the Pooh among other cartoon characters and is an effort to promote unity, according to the foundation.

However, some Christian activist groups see the video as a means of promoting the acceptance of homosexuality, citing the foundation's Web site which says people should respect others' sexual identity.

"Their inclusion of the reference to 'sexual identity' within their 'tolerance pledge' is not only unnecessary, but it crosses a moral line," James Dobson of Focus on the Family said in a statement last month.

Sophomore Mason Binns said he watched portions of the video on the news.

"I would let kids watch the video because I didn't see anything homo-

sexual really jump out in it," Binns said. "I don't think kids will see the homosexual aspect of it unless an adult points it out to them."

Binns said he thinks the video is mostly telling kids to get along with people and to not be judgmental.

Senior Kelli Sadler said she believes homosexuality to be wrong, but thinks the video is good because homosexuality is now a bigger issue than it was in the past.

"I think it is better that kids are seeing videos like this [at a younger age] because they will have to deal with homosexuality sooner in their lives," Sadler said. "The video is not saying that you have to agree with homosexuality but that you need to accept the fact that you can't judge everyone."

Senior Jim Wallingford said he thinks showing the movie is not a wise decision based on the subject matter and the young age of the designated audience.

"I think the idea behind the video is well-grounded in that di-

versity is a good idea, and Christians should not exclude anyone. However, by showing it, kids are introduced to homosexuality at a young age," Wallingford said. "I feel there are more important things that the school system should be teaching the kids."

Graduate student Brent Adams said he finds moral issues surrounding the video controversy to be wrong.

"We have made homosexuality a gray issue when the Bible is black and white," Adams said. "Everything has become socially acceptable because of the media."

Adams said he thinks this would not have been an issue 30 years ago, but, now that it is, Adams said it is a tough situation that needs to be dealt with.

"The world is what we make of it, and I personally believe that, for Christians, it is our moral duty to make a stand," Adams said. "It is important to be accepting of people, but we need to draw the line somewhere."

"We have made homosexuality a gray issue when the Bible is black and white."

BRENT ADAMS,
GRADUATE STUDENT

2.04.05

SATURDAY 2.05

SUNDAY 2.06

MONDAY 2.07

TUESDAY 2.08

WEDNESDAY 2.09

THURSDAY 2.10

FRIDAY 2.11



SOURCE: THE WEATHER CHANNEL WEB SITE

OUTSIDE THE BUBBLE

President of Madagascar speaks at ACU

Marc Ravalomanana, president of the Republic of Madagascar, a developing nation off the southeastern coast of Africa, will be on the campus of Abilene Christian University Feb. 5-6.

Ravalomanana will visit the 24 Malagasy students who are attending ACU as part of a Madagascar government-sponsored program to help develop future leaders for the African nation. Ravalomanana will speak at a public luncheon Feb. 6 in the ACU Teague Special Events Center.

The 24 Malagasy students came to ACU through a scholarship program funded by the Malagasy government in partnership with World Bank. The arrangement came about during a visit to Madagascar in 2003 by Dr. John Tyson, ACU vice president for development. Tyson was visiting the country on the first trade mission sponsored by the U.S.-Madagascar Business Council.

Education job fair in Little Rock

The Arkansas Department of Education is sponsoring a job fair for teacher candidates Saturday, Feb. 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Clear Channel Metroplex Event Center, 10800 Colonel Glenn Road, Little Rock.

More than 100 Arkansas School Districts will be seeking applicants. There is a special need for candidates with a strong background in mathematics, science, foreign language and special education, officials said.

There will also be booths providing information on licensure requirements, non-traditional licensure, national board certification and special endorsements.

The Arkansas State Police will be on site to fingerprint and perform criminal background checks. The cost of fingerprinting and a state background check is \$20. An FBI background check costs \$24.

Bridge documentary captures suicides

Eric Steel, an independent producer, set up two cameras in January 2004 and filmed the Golden Gate Bridge every day for a year, recording the bridge's beauty and a year's worth of suicides and suicide attempts.

Steel interviewed the families of the suicide victims to complete a documentary on the "dozen or so" suicides that occurred last year.

More than 1,300 people have jumped from the bridge since it opened in 1937. Steel's documentary reignited the debate over whether it's time to put a suicide barrier on the bridge.

N.Y. man sells body to advertise

A Long Island, N.Y., man is offering advertisers the opportunity to tattoo their messages on his body.

So far Joe Tamargo, 31, is permanently marked with advertisements including "Save Martha [Stewart]!" and pilldaddy.com.

Tamargo who runs a Web site called LivingAdSpace.com, first got responses to his offer when he posted the opportunity on eBay.

"They say there's nothing better in advertising than word of mouth," Tamargo said. "I figured, this might be better."

FACES IN THE CROWD

Ashley Hill, freshman



Hometown: Berthoud, Colo.

Major: Social Sciences with licensure

Favorite food: Barbecue ribs

Favorite book: "Winterkill" by C.J. Box

Java City, Midnight Oil or Thanks a Latte? Midnight Oil

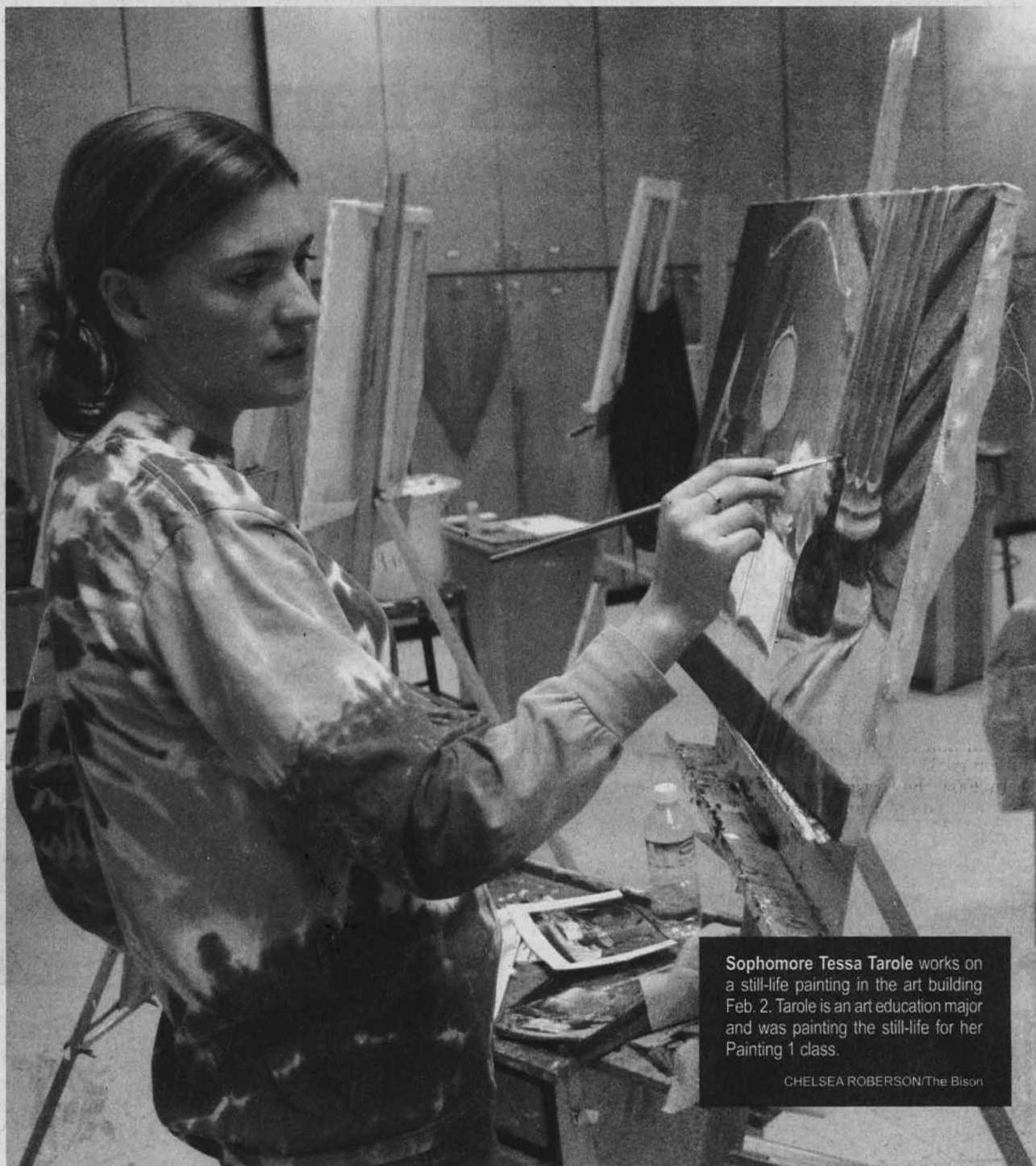
If you won a lot of money, to whom would you give half of it? "My parents. They've provided for me and my brother for so many years."

In your lifetime, who has had the biggest impact on our world? Sadaam Hussein, Tony Blair and George Bush

If you could meet anyone, who would it be? "Abraham Lincoln. I love the West and he had a lot to do with opening up the West."

After-college plans: Be a history teacher

WEEKLY WINDOW



Sophomore Tessa Tarole works on a still-life painting in the art building Feb. 2. Tarole is an art education major and was painting the still-life for her Painting 1 class.

CHELSEA ROBERSON/The Bison

CAMPUS IN BRIEF

Habitat promotion in Searcy

Janet Huckabee, wife of Gov. Mike Huckabee and participant in Habitat for Humanity, will speak in McInteer 150 at 8:15 p.m. Monday, Feb. 7.

Hillary Kennington, president of the American Studies Institute Distinguished Students, said Huckabee will speak about her involvement in Habitat for Humanity and the good that comes from the organization.

Huckabee's presentation will promote the start of an affiliate chapter of Habitat for Humanity in Searcy, Kennington said.

The ASI-sponsored event is open to the public.

Those interested in helping set up the local affiliate should attend, Kennington said.

Learning workshops offered

The Academic Resource center will host "Learning Enhancement Workshops" in McInteer 150 from 4 to 5 p.m. every weekday day during the week of Feb. 7.

The schedule is as follows:

Feb. 7: Note-taking

Feb. 8: Test-taking

Feb. 9: Learning styles assessment

Feb. 10: Time management

Feb. 14: Memory skills

ASI to host J.C. Watts

The American Studies Institute welcomes J.C. Watts, chairman of J.C. Watts Companies and former congressman, to the Benson Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24.

Watts will speak on "Leadership Lessons from the Sidelines and Aisles of Congress," according to ASI officials.

Watts served eight years in Congress, during which he served as chairman of the House Republican Conference and on the House Armed Services Committee.

For more information call ASI at 4497.

Air Force band to perform

The U.S. Air Force Shades of Blue Jazz Ensemble will perform in the Benson Auditorium at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17.

The group of 18 enlisted musicians are members of the Band of Mid-America based at Scott Air Force Base in Illinois.

The evening's concert, under the direction of Senior Master Sgt. Mark A. Hansen, will be a patriotic presentation.

The Searcy Daily Citizen is sponsoring the concert, and free tickets are available at the newspaper's office, 3000 E. Race Ave.

COMING UP

2.05 "The SpongeBob Squarepants Movie," Benson, 8 p.m.

2.06 Open house for Harbin, Allen, Cone and ESMA, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

2.09 Girls and Women in Sports Day (National, 18th Annual)

2.10 Scotland Road, Admin. Aud., 7 p.m.

2.11 HNSA Valentine's Day "Love-gram" and Bake sale, student center, 9:45 a.m. - 5 p.m.

2.11 Bison baseball vs. S.W. Baptist, home, 3 p.m.

2.11 Scotland Road, Admin. Aud., 7 p.m.

2.11 "Top Gun," Benson, 8 p.m.

2.12 Bison baseball vs. S.W. Baptist, home, noon

2.12 Scotland Road, Admin. Aud., 7 p.m.

2.12 "The Neverending Story," Benson, 8 p.m.

2.12 Abraham Lincoln's birthday

2.13 Open house for Sears, Pryor, Shores, Searcy and WSMA, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

2.13 "I Value Your Friendship" Day

2.14 Valentine's Day and Ferris Wheel Day

2.14 Bison basketball vs. Central Arkansas, home, women - 6 p.m., men - 8 p.m.

2.15 Bison baseball vs. Lincoln, 1 p.m.

Grants help fund building projects

JILLIAN HICKS
student reporter

Harding University received a \$700,000 challenge grant Jan. 10 from The Kresge Foundation and \$1 million grant last semester from the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation to complete several building projects on campus.

The Kresge Foundation challenged Harding to raise the necessary funds to complete several building projects before the end of the year. This promised donation, depends on Harding's ability to raise the remaining funds to meet the goal of \$16.9 million before Oct. 1, 2005.

Mike Williams, vice president for Advancement, said the donation of the Mabee Foundation is also a challenge grant, which will aid in the completion of that goal.

"Both [the Kresge and Mabee foundations] have had long-standing relationships with Harding and have provided assistance for a number of different projects," Williams said.

"Harding has to complete all the capital building projects within one year to complete their challenge," President David Burks said. "I am confident Harding will be able to secure the remaining \$2.7 million to meet the \$16.9 million goal."

In 2004, the Kresge Foundation awarded 176 grants totaling nearly \$120 million to organizations across the country. Eighty percent of the grants offered by the foundation are awarded through the Bricks and Mortar program.

The Kresge foundation division awards challenge grants to

complete building programs by organizations and charitable foundations. This is the eighth challenge grant it has awarded to Harding since 1972.

"The Kresge Foundation has a very distinctive legacy of support for higher education across the nation," Burks said. "The Foundation has been instrumental in the support of many of our capital projects here at Harding. We are grateful for its continued support and confidence in Harding."

The J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation was created in 1948 to aid Christian organizations, institutes of higher learning and other charitable organizations. It has donated more than \$8 million to Harding in the last 40 years.

The Thornton Education Center accounts for \$5 million of the total amount. Construction on the building, which will connect to the American Studies building, began in July 2004 and will be completed in the fall.

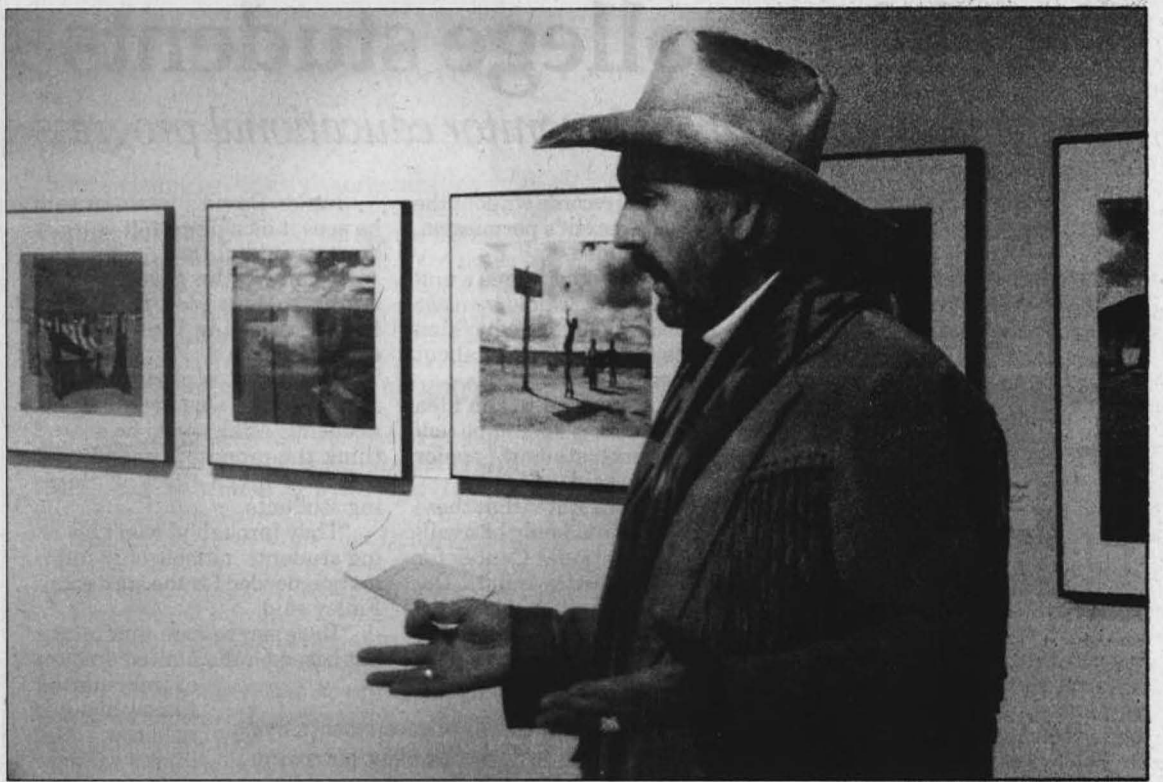
Members of the education faculty will move in this summer in order to be ready when school begins in the fall, Williams said. This will also allow time for minor renovations to the American Studies building.

The Thornton Center will house Harding's growing undergraduate and graduate programs in teacher education, which currently enrolls the third-largest student body of any education program in the state.

Other renovations included within the grant program will begin in the spring. These include renovation plans for the American Heritage building and Graduate Hall. ■

"Harding has to complete all the capital building projects within one year to complete their challenge."

DR. DAVID BURKS,
PRESIDENT



CHELSEA ROBERSON/The Bison

Award-winning photojournalist Gary Langston discusses his work with about 20 people in the Stevens Art Gallery Jan. 27. Langston has won several awards for his series on Navajo Indians.

Group explores College of Pharmacy idea

DENNIS MCCARTY
student reporter

A committee of eight faculty members and administrators has been commissioned by President David Burks to study the feasibility of adding a College of Pharmacy to the campus.



MURPHY

The committee will explore and evaluate different elements of the proposed program for six to eight weeks before deciding whether to recommend it to Burks.

Burks may then bring the idea before the university's Board of Trustees.

If approved, the four-year college would require substantial building space and new faculty trained in pharmacology — issues that are the focus of the committee's study.

Dr. Jim Carr, executive vice president and chairman of the committee, said the proposed program's cost is an issue, but will in no way affect undergraduate tuition.

Carr also said that across the country, hundreds of vacancies exist in pharmaceutical jobs, so demand is high.

The creation of a College of Pharmacy on campus would allow Harding's undergraduate pre-pharmacy students to complete their education without having to change schools.

"Harding has a great reputation in the area of medical sciences," Carr said. "This may be another arrow in our quiver that will provide another offering for our students in the medical services area."

Dr. Michael Murphy, director of the physician assistant program and member of the committee exploring the College of Pharmacy idea, said the committee is deliberating the program's potential for furthering the university's mission.

"Harding's mission is to train people in whatever profession to be servants in Christ," Murphy said. "A College of Pharmacy could be another program that helps [us] do that."

Burks, Carr, Dr. Dean Priest, distinguished professor of math, and Dr. Larry Long, vice president for Academic Affairs, traveled Dec. 7 to a new College of Pharmacy in North Carolina.

The founding dean of that college will visit Harding Feb. 7 to consult with the committee and recount his school-building experiences.

Skipper Eichhorn, adjunct pro-

fessor in the College of Nursing and math department, said a College of Pharmacy would be beneficial to Harding.

"It definitely would fill a niche in the professional world for students looking for a professional education at a school with spiritual values," Eichhorn said.

Eichhorn said it may be possible for outstanding students to be admitted into the graduate Pharmacy program after only two or three years of undergraduate work.

She also said graduates of any major might enter the program as long as they have the Pre-pharmacy prerequisites.

The courses offered at Colleges of Pharmacy are usually divided into didactic and clinical groups, Eichhorn said.

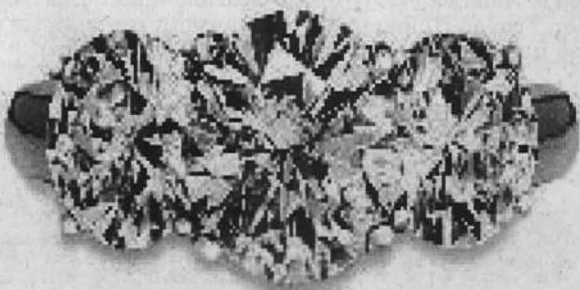
Didactic courses may include chemistry, physiology and labs, while clinical courses would involve on-site work in hospitals.

Some classes from the science, math and medical areas may overlap into the pharmaceutical area.

"One of the reasons Harding is researching the feasibility of offering a pharmacy degree is the national demand for individuals possessing it," Burks said. "We also think a pharmacy degree program will fit nicely into Harding's mission." ■

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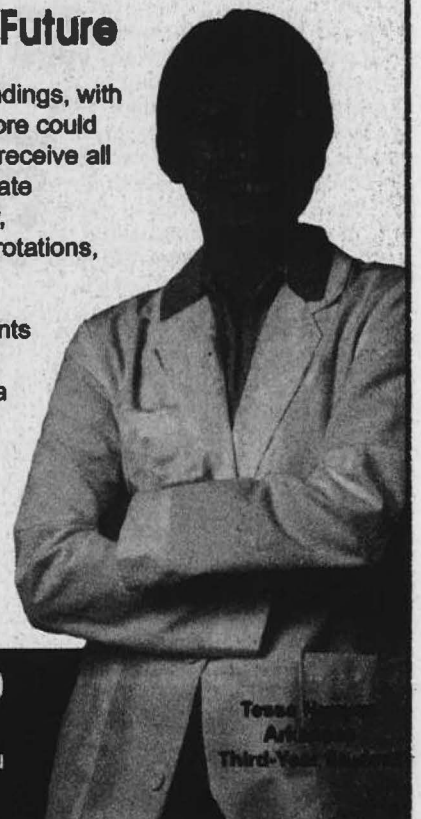
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Tracking college students

Government system would monitor educational progress

KATHRYN CHERRY
student reporter

Harding students may face an unnoticed change in their right to privacy beginning in 2006 as the federal government plans to monitor the educational progress and activity of every college student.

Universities and colleges across the nation are currently required to send reports to a national database used by federal and state officials to develop higher-education guidelines.

These reports track an institution's expenditures, revenues, average faculty salary and other pertinent information.

However, the American Council on Education recently issued a press release stating that this system is not effectively measuring the quality of education that colleges provide.

The federal government is formulating a plan to individually shadow students throughout their college years, creating a "unit record" system.

In order for this to happen, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which forbids federally funded colleges from releas-

ing individual records without the student's or parent's permission, must be amended.

Students say they agree a unified record system would increase the accuracy of higher-education statistics, but they worry about their privacy.

"I'm not opposed to the idea as a whole, but it should be voluntary for each student," senior Greg Seiders said.

The proposal states that these unit records would only be available to the National Center for Education Statistics and the Department of Education, excluding other government agencies.

However, in an effort to prevent terrorism after Sept. 11, the federal government passed laws such as the Patriot Act, permitting increased file sharing among its agencies.

Section 508 of the Patriot Act allows the Attorney General of the United States to access records from the NCES when suspicion of terrorist activity is questioned.

Senior Clarice Brazas said she thinks it's an invasion of her personal rights.

"It's just another step toward the government controlling our lives," Brazas said.

Junior David Pietzman said he sees it as a plan that will not be received lightly.

"I believe the government's trying to do a good thing, but they're crossing the line," Pietzman said.

Ron Finley, registrar and assistant to the vice president for Academic Affairs, said he doesn't think the proposed amendment will have much effect on Harding students.

"They [probably] won't be using students' names, only information needed for the statistics," Finley said.

"There may be more ramifications but based on the limited amount of information I know about it right now, I don't think it will have a big impact on us."

Freshman Megan Hitt is also skeptical of the proposed change.

"I don't think it is a good idea because a major part of being an American is my right to privacy," Hitt said.

If Congress approves this plan, it will be tested in the 2006-2007 academic year.

Harding students' records will automatically be filed in the database as a result of their school enrollment. ■

"I believe the government's trying to do a good thing, but they're crossing the line."

DAVID PIETZMAN,
JUNIOR



CHELSEA ROBERSON/The Bison

Dr. Scott Carrell, associate professor of music, performs a piece on a grand piano in the Reynolds Hall Feb. 1 before his faculty recital. Carrell performed for more than 200 people at the event.

COBA prepares for first summer HUE

MATT CHERRY
student reporter

The College of Business Administration will be heading to London for the first time this summer.

COBA is preparing students to leave July 5 where they will study business courses at Harding University in England for six weeks.

Dr. Mark Davis, associate professor of business, and Davis' wife, Penny, will join Mike Emerson, associate professor of accounting, in leading a group of about 20 students.

The group will take field trips to selected companies around London where they will have opportunities to speak with corporate leaders.

"I'm really excited about all the businesses we are going to see," said junior Lana Gilbert. "It will be great to see different viewpoints and how business works in Europe compared to America."

Junior Trevor Holbert said he is also interested in seeing a

new perspective on international business.

"When this [semester in London] came up, I saw it as a good opportunity to experience England," he said. "As an economics major, looking at different economies should give me a better understanding of the way business works."

The students will attend morning classes Monday through Thursday, and they will have the afternoons to tour London. Emerson said the students can also take extended trips over the long weekends.

Students must select a minimum of nine hours from the courses offered, including global business environment, strategic policy, personal finance, e-commerce and a humanities independent study.

The \$7,000 base cost includes nine hours of tuition, round-trip airfare from Little Rock to London, public transportation while in London and six weeks of lodging and meal allowances. Emerson said he is currently recruiting for the summer of 2006 HUE trip. ■

A WHIRLWIND OF INFORMATION

www.harding.edu/thebison

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V-Day: 'Lottery matchmaking' to Harding swings

SUSANNA SMITH
features editor

Candy hearts. Dozens of roses. Love letters. Teddy bears. A day that invokes a myriad of emotions for those single and those in relationships. Whoever came up with the idea of Valentine's Day?

The Catholic Church recognizes at least three martyred saints named Valentine, according to the History Channel Web site, www.historychannel.com/exhibits/valentine/.

The many identities led to many legends and vague truths, though all the stories identify the saint as a romantic man.

One legend portrayed St. Valentine as a priest who continued to perform weddings after Emperor Claudius II outlawed marriage for young men (in the name of making them better soldiers).

Others say St. Valentine, while in prison, sent the first "valentine" to his love, the jailor's daughter. He signed the letter, "From your Valentine."

The holiday, however, does not just have roots in Christian tradition, according to the Web site. In ancient Rome, the ides of Feb. 15 began the fertility festival Lupercalia.

During the festival, names were drawn from an urn to pair up single men and women.

Around 498 A.D., Pope Gelasius declared "lottery matchmaking" unlawful and declared Feb. 14 as St. Valentine's Day, the History Channel Web site reported.

The holiday's popularity began to snowball around the 17th century. Through the centuries, couples exchanged tokens, then notes, then printed cards when printing technology improved.

In the 1840s, Esther A. Howland, known as the Mother of the valentine, was the first to mass-produce valentines. Howland's valentines were elaborate creations with lace, ribbons and pictures, the History Channel Web site said.

While students still send elaborately decorated love letters, they also find other ways to express their feelings of affection to others.

"I look forward to Valentine's Day because it gives me a chance to show [sophomore Curtis Groves] how much he means to me, whether by showing him or giving him something," sophomore Mallory Abel said.

Not all students share the excitement Abel has for the holiday. Freshman DeShawn Robinson said he has reasons for resenting the gift-giving holiday.

"Last Valentine's Day, I spent tons of money on little stuff that [my girlfriend would] only notice for two or three days," Robinson said. ■

"One time [AMBER & I]
went to **Chick-fil-A**
and watched 'Aladdin'!!

KEVIN KENZELMYER, freshman



CHELSEA ROBERSON/The Bison

A valentine sits on top of the Doritos stand in the Harding University Mini-Mart. Students who don't have time to make a Wal-Mart run for their special someone can deplete their DCB on carnations, seasonal candies and stuffed hearts.

Freshman Katie Rinard gets a head start on valentines Feb. 1. Rinard said her creations will go to her grandmothers in New Mexico and Colorado. Many students have small traditions for the holiday, such as sending valentines to friends and family.



SUSANNA SMITH/The Bison

quote me:

"I don't celebrate Valentine's Day; I **CELEBRATE SINGLES AWARENESS DAY**. However, I do accept chocolates and the like. I'll probably watch a sappy movie and count the blessings of being unattached."

KATIE COZZENS, freshman

"I thought about **PUTTING TOGETHER A SINGLES' PARTY**, but then someone made the point that people would get hooked up at the singles' party, and it wouldn't be a singles' party anymore."

MICHAEL VENDETTI, sophomore

"I'm renting myself out with my poetry club. We're **READING LOVE POEMS** to people."

JULIE DOW, sophomore

VALENTINES on a budget:

MAKE A BUCK

1. Rent yourself out as a poetry writer.
2. Serenade couples. Pass the hat.
3. Throw a banquet in your dorm lobby. Decorate and invite all your friends.
4. Be a delivery person for in-class deliveries during your breaks.
5. Chauffeur couples to Little Rock. Dress up and hold your hand out for tips.

SPEND A BUCK (OR LESS)

1. Candle-lit dinner at your favorite fast-food restaurant (rent your single friend to be the waiter).
2. Find an elderly couple at your church and do something special for them.
3. Drive to Little Rock for dinner. Start early and stop along the way to take pictures of each other in places you've never been to together. (The old-mill is one tourist spot.)
4. Borrow some friends' bikes and ride down the bike trail together.
5. Have a candle-lit picnic.

Holy Adoption

HSBS student Ryan Lloyd finds peace after years of struggling

EMILY BURROWS
student reporter

Ryan Lloyd, a 26-year-old Harding School of Biblical Studies student from Grubbs, Ark., said he had always been raised to believe in God, but struggled throughout his life to truly follow Him.

Lloyd said his story begins when, at 3 months old, he was adopted by Wayne and June Lloyd.

"My mother read me bedtime stories out of the Bible and incorporated Christ into my daily life," Lloyd said.

Lloyd said even though his adopted parents were wonderful, at 16, Lloyd started to feel like he needed to know who his biological parents were so he could have peace of mind.

"This thought tormented me to the point of not being able to sleep at night, and it consumed my every thought," Lloyd said. "I began to receive professional counseling for emotional problems, but even with the counseling, I still could not find the peace I desired."

After graduating high school at 17, Lloyd said he was filled with hatred and confusion. He moved out on his own and began to build a wall of separation between God and himself.

"I watched four of my friends die grueling, unnecessary deaths and many more [friends] go to the penitentiary," Lloyd said. "I was watching Satan play his game firsthand, and it finally began to sicken and scare me."

Lloyd said he lived without God in deep sin for seven years and was completely miserable.

"I had tried everything else and nothing brought peace or happiness to my life," Lloyd said. "But I could look at the lives of Christians and they had the inner peace I desired."

Lloyd said that is the point when he truly accepted Jesus as his personal savior and believed that Jesus' death paid for his sins.

Lloyd said two weeks after this decision, he admitted himself into a non-denominational rehabilitation center called New Beginnings, the place where his real conversion began.

"I learned to respect and love myself, to pray on my knees and tell God everything that was on my heart and mind," Lloyd said.

"I slowly began to rely on God for everything ... I was learning how to resist the devil and to die to my own desires so that God could begin

to use me. I was becoming alive in Christ again."

Lloyd said after he made the decision to truly follow God and his ways, he received a little bit of the inner peace for which he had yearned.

He stayed in rehabilitation for three months and then decided to go home and start his life over the right way — living for God, Lloyd said.

The last night at rehabilitation, Lloyd said he had a dream, and he believes God gave him a vision through that dream.

"God said to me, 'I have taken the evil out of your life. Now you may get focused on your future. I will put your biological father into your life and give you peace and closure, but you must live for me and do my will to have true inner peace. If you do this, I will keep my promise,'" Lloyd said.

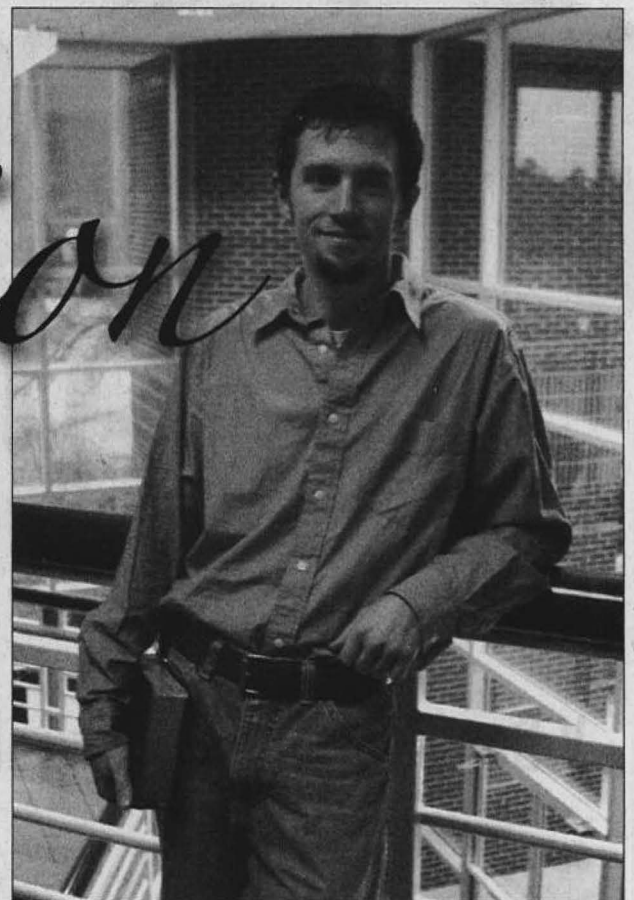
Lloyd said the next day, when he returned home, his adoptive parents told him that his biological father had found him through a private investigator, and now it was up to Lloyd to contact him.

Lloyd said one month later he went to Abilene, Texas, and met his biological father, mother, two sets of grandparents, five sisters, two brothers and several other family members.

"I feel very strongly that this was all done in God's time and according to his will," Lloyd said. "After this, the black cloud that had followed me all my life was lifted, and I felt free to do anything, where before I felt bondage. I received the true inner peace I had always desired."

Lloyd said he entered the HSBS program in August 2004, and although he thinks the program is intense, he loves being a part of it.

"I feel like I am a dry sponge waiting to absorb everything," Lloyd said. "I am going in the direction I want my life to go in, and I want to get all I can get out of these next two years."



CHELSEA ROBERSON/The Bison

Ryan Lloyd is in his first year of the Harding School of Biblical Studies, an accelerated two-year program designed for students 21 and older. After graduation, Lloyd wants to enter the domestic mission field.

Lloyd said when entering the HSBS program, he was interested in youth ministry, but now he is leaning towards the domestic mission field.

"My main mission and goal is to get out and help people," Lloyd said. "I want to show them that there is a better way of life and there is something better after we die."

Classmate Kevin Laffoon said this motto is apparent in Lloyd's life. "He has a heart for God; I know that," Laffoon said. "He loves his new life. He's on fire to share it with the world. Just get him talking and that's all he'll talk about."

Lloyd said he believes beyond a doubt that his life change is completely attributed to God and his wonder-working power.

"I just want to share my story and let people know that they can come back from an addiction, or any way of sin, and find the inner peace that God gives," Lloyd said.

"It means absolutely everything to me to have accepted Jesus as my Lord and Master," Lloyd said. "Without Him, I strongly feel that I would be in the penitentiary right now or, even worse, have died an early, unnecessary death without having Christ in my heart and a full assurance of a heavenly reward." ■

"I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you."
John 15:18



CHELSEA ROBERSON/The Bison

Ryan Lloyd folds his hands over his Bible as he prays. Lloyd said his main goal in life is to become involved in ministry and show people a better way of living.

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A&E GUIDE

Harding's menu for entertainment opportunities in the area

MUSIC

TJ McCloud

Singer/songwriter TJ McCloud will bring his folksy stylings to Midnight Oil Coffeehouse next Thursday at 9 p.m. in celebration of the release of his new CD, "Kind of Life." The show is free.

McCloud enjoyed success with his band Stephen Speaks and has been compared to John Mayer and Bebo Norman.

Ingram Hill

Memphis-based, alternative roots pop band, Ingram

Hill brings their sound to Juanita's in Little Rock, Saturday night at 9:30 p.m.

The band Retrospect is scheduled to open.

Tickets cost \$8 in advance and \$10 the day of the show.

Theater

A Soldier's Play

The Arkansas Repertory Theater in Little Rock presents a production of this murder investigation drama set in 1944 at a segregated army camp in Louisiana.

More than just a detective

story, it is a study of prejudice and character.

Matinee performances are only available on Sundays at 2 p.m. Curtain time on Wednesday and Sunday evenings is at 7 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday performances have an 8 p.m. curtain time.

"A Soldier's Play," winner of the 1982 Pulitzer Prize for Drama, will run through February 20.

Tickets cost between \$28 and \$35.

For more information about this and other upcoming productions, go to www.therep.org or call 501-378-0405.

Bright Eyes maintains indie cred

JOSH HOLLIS
student reporter

While most 13-year-olds were riding their bikes and hanging out in their local malls, Conor Oberst was living a musician's dream.

At 13, in his hometown Omaha, Nebraska, Oberst was recording his own music and helping start the independent record label Saddle Creek Records, under which his band at the time, Commander Venus, recorded and under which he still records to this day.

Oberst, 24, has been deemed a "songwriting genius," and has performed with his band, Bright Eyes, on such stages as "The Late Show" with David Letterman and "Austin City Limits." Additionally, appearing onstage with seasoned artists such as Bruce Springsteen has only increased his critical stature.

Lest you think that Oberst has "sold out," it should be pointed out that Bright Eyes will not record for major labels, shuns corporate radio and refuses to play venues owned by Clear Channel Communications.

Oberst paid his dues, putting out three albums prior to the release of his "breakthrough" album, "Lifted or the Story is in the Soil, Keep Your Ear to the Ground," in 2002.

The soul of Bright Eyes's indie heritage lives on and is not going anywhere, anytime soon.

You are probably saying to yourself, "that's great and all, but what does Bright Eyes sound like?" Well, that question is more easily asked than answered.

The music itself seems to change from release to release, but one constant is the vocals and lyrics.

For those of you who need technical musical perfection, this would not be your cup of tea, but I'm sure that Josh Groban's album would be right up your alley.

For those who are not musical snobs, Bright Eyes may be just what you want.

With the occasional crack or dropped note, Oberst's voice has a raw, real quality to it, which is difficult to come by in most artists.

On Jan. 24, Bright Eyes released two long-awaited albums, "I'm Wide Awake it's Morning," and "Digital Ash in a Digital Urn," under Saddle Creek Records.

The two albums are sort of a yin-yang release, in that "I'm Wide Awake it's Morning" has a definite folk/country twang, while "Digital Ash in a Digital Urn" is more electronic, for lack of a better term.

For reasons such as these, it is difficult to put Bright Eyes in a neat musical genre package.

Though released on the same date, the two albums cannot easily be compared, just as I would be hard pressed to compare Bright Eyes to any other band.

I believe the best way to review Bright Eyes albums is to see how they measure up compared to the rest of Oberst's.

Before the opinions start, I want to tell you a little more about each album.

"I'm Wide Awake it's Morning" is a stripped-down album in which the vocals and guitar take center stage.

Special guest vocalists include country legend Emmylou Harris and Jim James of My Morning Jacket.

"Digital Ash in a Digital Urn" is its polar opposite, focusing more on feel and less on vocals.

Nicolas Zimmer of the Yeah, Yeah, Yeahs helps out on this one with synthesizer and guitar.

As far as music, and in comparison to past Bright Eyes releases, "I'm Wide Awake it's Morning" is one of my favorites, and I'm sure, given some time, it could even be given the title of "favorite."

On the other hand, keeping in tune with the yin-yang theme, "Digital Ash in a Digital Urn" was not too impressive.

Musically, it is of high quality, but it is a lesser Bright Eyes release, although there are a few very good tracks.

Now for the coveted star ratings, keeping in mind they are being rated as Bright Eyes albums.

I give "I'm Wide Awake it's Morning" the top prize of four stars. I would give it an even higher honor if I could. "Digital Ash in a Digital Urn," gets two stars; good music, bad Bright Eyes.

Don't just take my opinion on this, however. Check them both out for yourself.

I'm sure they will become a staple in your soundtrack of the year.

★★★★★ 4/4

"I'm Wide Awake it's Morning"

★★☆☆☆ 2/4

"Digital Ash in a Digital Urn"

'Phantom' is given new life on screen

BONNIE BOWLES
student reporter

"The Phantom of the Opera" has long been a favorite of mine. I saw the Andrew Lloyd Webber production on Broadway and own three copies of the novel by Gaston Leroux that spawned numerous plays, musicals, films and B-horror movies.

I have also encountered many failed attempts to recreate the atmosphere and suspense that Leroux envisioned.

Afraid of one more "artist" butchering my beloved favorite, I signed a petition to prevent Webber's version from being adapted for the screen. When the film went through for release, I was prepared to love and despise it simultaneously.

"Phantom" was nominated for three Oscars in the categories of best original song, art direction, and cinematography. The Broadcast Film Critics Association voted the leading lady, Emmy Rossum, as best young actress, and the soundtrack topped Billboard's soundtrack chart. But I was still afraid to see it.

I was pleasantly surprised. The sets, costumes, and cinematography thrust me into the world of the Paris Opera House in 1870. Joel Schumacher's use of natural lighting and luxurious materials captured both the ambience and texture of the theater. Camera shots following characters through the backstage area and up flights of stairs capture the efficient nature of the ensemble.

The film begins 1919, as the lighting of a renovated chandelier triggers an old man's memories from nearly 50 years prior, and the Opera House restores itself to its full, colorful, former glory.

In 1870, the opera season is in full swing with Andre and Firmin, the new managers, adjusting to their positions, and Carlotta, a self-centered soprano, storming out so often that she can hardly finish a production.

Christine, a young lady with astonishing vocal talent, has been plucked from the chorus line, much to the diva's chagrin, and dead

bodies are dropping out of the flies like, well, flies.

Most of the incidents in the house, including the deaths, are traceable to the opera ghost, a mysterious figure who skulks around the building and its basements.

Gerard Butler and Patrick Wilson, who play The Phantom and Raoul respectively, bring their characters to life with strong emotions, passionate love scenes (with Christine), and frenzied combat.

However, neither man sings as well as they act. Butler has the tendency to hold notes meant to express rage flat and low, and Wilson occasionally stops singing and yells a word or two in harmony.

While the leading men were not trained vocally to execute songs to their fullest, Rossum puts her years of operatic training to good use.

Based on her previous films, I was wary, but Rossum uses a strong, melodic voice and honest, innocent facial expressions throughout the movie to convey the fear, joy and awe Christine felt.

Between the romantic drama, Andre and Firmin spend most of the film appealing enraged diva Carlotta. Minnie Driver is cast as the shrewish soprano, and her use of a horrible Italian accent and outrageous egocentrism help lighten the mood considerably. Even Carlotta's singing is ridiculous; Driver was the only cast member to lip synch her singing parts.

There were several differences between the film and the Broadway production, but the variations do not detract from the overall plot and are generally made up for in the up close and personal aspects of the movie.

Despite this, "The Phantom of the Opera" is worth watching for its own merits.

★★★★★ 4/4

• Gerard Butler, Emmy Rossum
• PG-13 for violence and sexual undertones



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The Bison is a campus newspaper, edited and largely financed by students, seeking to provide high-quality journalistic discussion of issues of concern to the Harding community.

It also serves as an educational tool for students, providing practical experience to enhance skills learned in the classroom.

The Bison recognizes its responsibility to be accurate, fair and objective in its reporting while upholding the Christian ideals for which Harding University exists.

It attempts to serve as a forum for student perspectives, welcoming letters to the editor, which adhere to ethical and professional standards and are no more than 300 words in length.

Signed columns appearing in the Bison are the views of the writer and may not reflect the official policy of the Harding University administration. Unsigned columns represent the view of the editorial board.

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A GLIMMER OF HOPE...

Procrastinators unite

Proposed new club a haven for the unmotivated

If you are at all like me, you are leisurely thumbing through this newspaper finding that "something to do" in order to put off that "something you have have to do, should be doing, but don't want to do."

Therefore, you scan the articles hoping to escape the hustle and bustle of worrying about work, school, overly serious relationships — all that stuff that bogs a person down.

Procrastination is a serious epidemic in today's academic setting. It has become quite a plague in my own life as well.

Every year for New Year's, I resolve to tackle this procrastination problem, but then after a moment's reflection, I quickly conclude that such a resolution is better attempted for the next new year.

So, I finally decided to take this great loafing bull by the horns and act now, or even better, act early.

Back in August, I started to form a group. Support groups are always the best antidote for bad habits. In order to have such a group formed in time for my New Year's resolution, I had to start forming it five months in advance or it wouldn't get formed.

Actually, we are a new social club, you just haven't heard of us because we haven't informed the appropriate campus office of our presence yet, but we will do so sometime later.

We call our club, "The Procrastination Club," simply and without any Greek letters.

We've been meaning to think up something catchy in our organization's name, but for the time being, we find that such a plain name will do until we get around to thinking of something clever.

Our club meetings are....well, actually, to say the most,.....they look promising towards the future. In other words, we have yet to have a full-fledged meeting.

There were rumors floating around last October about a complete club meeting, even a function, but for some reason or other, they never really materialized.

Sometime, I guess, whenever I feel motivated, I will get up a roster of everyone who is a member in my club. Our membership ranges through the whole gamut of college life.

Statistics show that four out of five

BRIAN HARRISON

Guest Room



college students struggle with procrastination. But even these numbers can't be accurate.

All the times in my life when one of those statistic surveyors knocked on my door asking me this or that, I could never really decide on an answer right then and there, but would tell the surveyor that I would phone and answer his question later when the timing was right.

Most people that should say "yes" to the procrastination questions have not decided on whether or not to say "yes" and probably never will get around to it.

Regardless of the statistics, it's still a hard fact that procrastination is a widespread disease, infecting millions of students per year.

Our campus is not immune.

We have ranging within our group a 63-year-old student who one day plans to finish that biology degree and then head off to medical school.

We also have one of my good friends from back home. He doesn't even

attend Harding, but back in August, when I had the idea for the group, he expressed his desire for membership.

But for some silly reason he never turned in his application on time. Maybe he'll be here next year.

For those who are interested, don't delay any longer, please contact me. (Sometime in the future I will place my contact information).

I already see an improvement in myself.

This article is finally completed within the month of January, despite the fact that I've had the idea for such an article going around in my head for the past eleven years.

Now I've finally got around to actually writing it.

BRIAN HARRISON is a guest columnist for the Bison and may be contacted at charriso@harding.edu.

CARL JACOBSEN

Guest Room



'Thank you' to those who cared

When I came to Harding as a fourth-year-junior, I had the same ideal in mind as most incoming freshman: a fresh start and new opportunities. A lot of people, introverts specifically, choose Harding for the wrong reasons. For me it was a chance to be someone new, and meet the so called "cool" crowd which shunned me in high school. Unfortunately, we are who we are a long time before we step foot on college campus.

The majority of my first semester was spent in my room. Join a club, I was told, so I did. The only problem is that the majority of the people in a club only see you at club functions or meetings.

OK, enough of that. This column is not on how pathetic my life was. I want to use this space to thank people who made a difference.

The people I am going to thank may not know they had an impact. But the rewards for such acts are great on earth and in heaven.

Andy McDonald: A big goof ball with the heart of a lion. You always attempted to include me in all club activities even when I repeatedly told you no.

Josh Williams: A club brother that actually took the time to get to know me. Thank you. And an even bigger thank you for introducing me to the next person on my list.

Kari (Palmore) Jacobsen: Thank you for being aggressive enough to want to meet me, for making the first move and for being willing to spend the rest of your life with me.

Kay Gowen: Thank you for taking the time to speak with me after class and outside the classroom. I hope this column doesn't have too many flaws. Jack Shock: Teacher of the Year every year in my book, no matter what the regulations say.

Mike James: Thank you for all your help in academics and for inviting me into your home on Wednesday nights.

I am not trying to say that any of you reading this need to change and go out of your way to be kind and say hi.

All I want to do is say thank you to the people who do. You don't realize the impact you have on the people to whom you reach out.

CARL JACOBSEN is a guest columnist for the Bison and may be contacted at cjacobse@harding.edu.

The rewards
for such acts
are great on
earth and in
heaven.

The SpongeBob crusade

Christians should deal more tactfully with a worldly culture

OUR VIEW

PROBLEM
Christian inability to deal with a sometimes hostile media

SUGGESTION
Christians should use the media without succumbing to inflammatory rhetoric

Does anybody here know SpongeBob? With this question, Dr. James C. Dobson has ignited a media firestorm that casts Christians as the "bad guys." An image that is prevalent among many in our nation.

At a black-tie dinner the week of the Presidential Inauguration, Dobson expressed his concern over a video put out by the We Are Family Foundation, which will be distributed to 61,000 schools across the country. The video, aimed to promote tolerance, features several cartoon and children show characters, including the ocean-dwelling organism of Dobson's question.

To be fair, Dobson's problem has more to do with the foundation's Web site, which features language promoting tolerance of the homosexual lifestyle, something not mentioned in the video.

While Dobson has a legitimate complaint, his approach to the issue and the subsequent attitude taken by his organization, Focus on the Family, is inappropriate.

By narrowing the focus to one character with his question, Dobson has aided the media into turning the issue into three simple words: Is SpongeBob Gay?

If Dobson had referred to the video and site in more general terms, much of this fiasco could have been avoided.

General terms means not calling out an icon of children's television at a black-tie dinner during inauguration week.

Following the comments, and the media reaction, Paul Batura of Focus on the Family added this insight: "We see the video as an in-

sidious means by which the organization is manipulating and potentially brainwashing kids."

Language such as this tarnishes the image of Christians. The video and site were made by people the Bible would term "worldly," so naturally the site featured "worldly" views. These views are at odds with those of Christianity, but this does not mean that the makers of the site were sitting around scheming how to make more children gay.

In contrast, another recent news item shows what can happen when those who claim to be Christians work smartly within the confines of mainstream media.

On Jan. 20, news came that Rolling Stone magazine had refused to run an ad for a new Zondervan-published translation of the Bible.

When asked why, representatives for the magazine could only cite an unwritten policy against running ads for religious messages.

Five days and several headlines later, Rolling Stone officials changed their minds and decided to run the ad.

The approach taken by the representatives of Zondervan is the perfect example of how Christians should use the media to get their voices out.

Instead of raising a stink, they simply spoke to the nation's news sources and expressed their confusion over why the popular magazine had refused to run the article, especially after Rolling Stone had accepted payment from Zondervan last July to run the ad in February.

The representatives for Zondervan didn't call out Rolling Stone or accuse the magazine of anything sinister; they just sanely articulated their problem. Dobson should take note.

STEVEN PROFAIZER

Yada, Yada
Yada



Living a life full of stuff

My "stuff" is ruining my life. These days it is just always in the way.

This week I closed up the storage unit I have kept my worldly possessions in for the last year in an effort to save \$75 between now and the end of the school year.

Now I really hate moving. It is one of the absolute worst things about being alive. Especially when you tend to pick the top floors of dorms every year – dorms run by dorm parents who must take the elevator for so many joy rides during the summer that they always break right before I need to move in for the fall semester.

The main problem I had once I finally got everything upstairs was that I had my storage unit for the same reason everyone pays to store their stuff – I don't have any room for the things that were inside of it.

Of course, I wasn't smart enough to allow a little thing like the prospect of sharing my bed with a microwave for the rest of the semester bother me.

Once I filled up the obvious places (under my bed, in my closet, under my suitcases' beds, in my suitcases' closets), I realized there was simply no more room.

After staring at my piles of belongings for a while, I decided everything I own falls into two basic categories: "things" and "stuff."

"Things" are great. "Things" are things like clothes, video games and books. "Things" are useful, fun and at least remotely valuable in some way.

Unfortunately, my collection of "things" is far outnumbered by my ever-growing plague of "stuff."

"Stuff" is not great. It is worthless junk I should have thrown away the second it was given to me.

"Stuff" is the notes I still keep from middle school. "Stuff" is the Rubik's cube I may one day attempt to solve. It is the dollar-store towel rack I know I will never use, the juggling balls I got from a business as a giveaway (no, I can't juggle) and the water balloons I have had since high school and never even thought about using.

My problem is that I have an addiction to my most random belongings.

Thankfully, I'm not alone. A group of hardworking scientists have recently taken some time away from doing things like cancer research to try to help out the pack rats of the world.

These future Nobel Prize winners found that brain lesions can cause rat packery in humans. You can read all about it in the thrilling January edition of Brain magazine (Yes, that is the real name).

Near-debilitating disease aside, I was fortunately able to create enough storage places to save most of my "stuff."

Unfortunately, the juggling balls didn't make the cut.

STEVEN PROFAIZER is editor of the Bison. He may be contacted at 501-279-4471.

What freedom are we dying for?

Before last Sunday's election in Iraq, insurgents tossed leaflets from car windows vowing "to wash the streets of Baghdad with the voters' blood." On Sunday, they did, killing 35. The White House and the Pentagon recently announced that about 24,000 Iraqis and nearly 1,450 American military personnel have died for Iraqi Freedom.

Meanwhile, the president is optimistic. Forget weapons of mass destruction or the war against terrorism. He now has a better reason why our best patriots are sacrificing themselves to a war that looks like it will not end anytime soon and has only provoked more Muslim anger.

Last week, President Bush acknowledged that ongoing American losses might be "very discouraging to the American people. But it is the long-term objective that is vital, and that is the spread of freedom."

"I firmly planted the flag of liberty," he added.

Successful elections would prove his point, he announced. To the Iraqis who face daily attacks from insurgents, he said: "Clearly, there are some who are intimidated. I urge people to vote. I urge people to defy these terrorists."

They did and they died.

For us Americans it is easy to view that as Iraqi heroism. Their own "give me lib-

JONATHAN G. REINHARDT

OutSpoken

Is our version of liberty and democracy the best thing that can happen to everyone else?

erty or give me death." The liberty, that is, that we gave them – and that the president, following the so-called Clinton doctrine, has declared the aim of American foreign policy worldwide.

To us liberty is a beautiful thing – freedom from persecution, freedom to believe what we think is right, to speak our mind, and to live our life as we think best. That's what we want most and what we will fight at all costs to protect (except when others think we'd rather be safe than free – read Kathryn Cherry's article on pg. 4 of this issue).

But is it what the rest of the world wants? And is our version of liberty and democracy the best thing that can happen to everyone else?

Let's face it. Liberty makes us happier and richer. But there is no natural law that says humans live best when they have the right to life, a vote and the pursuit of happiness, or to health, privacy and the pursuit of wealth.

Our Constitution may claim that, but that's what applies to us and our own experience, and maybe to our European friends from whom we got the idea.

So when we wage war against others "for their own good" to extend them liberties against their will, we shouldn't be surprised if they're not as grateful as we'd like them to be. The rest of the world might simply not think that everyone's personal opinion and choice of lifestyle is as valid or important as that of everyone else, or that a democratic system is the only free one.

And we American Christians should ask ourselves what we're selling to the world and to our fellow Americans as the highest good, the good most worth dying for. If I read my Bible correctly, individual liberty and access to consumer goods isn't it.

JONATHAN REINHARDT is a guest columnist for the Bison and may be contacted at jgreinhart@harding.edu.



TALKBACK

Q: Who is your favorite cartoon character and why?



"Master Shake from 'Aqua Teen Hunger Force' because he is witty."

JOHN FYFFE,
junior



"Stewie from the 'Family Guy' because he is way more cynical than I could ever be."

KRYSTLE BOISE,
sophomore



"Liono, Lord of the Thundercats is my favorite because he opened my eyes to the glory of cartoons."

RON ROZZELL,
junior



"Inspector Gadget because he's got all those gadgets in his coat and pants."

SCOT JACKSON,
sophomore

Patriots, Eagles set to battle Sunday

BARKLEY TERRY
student reporter

The time of year is upon us when friends all around the United States will gather to watch a game that is literally the pinnacle of sporting events. Jacksonville, Fla., will play host to Super Bowl XXXIX.

The New England Patriots will continue their dominance of professional football again this year with their third Super Bowl appearance in the past four years. The Patriots will face the Philadelphia Eagles, a team that has previously lost three consecutive NFC championship games.

With the Eagles finally getting their shot at the Super Bowl, one can imagine how ready they must be to take that elusive trophy home. After last year's loss, the Eagles regrouped and picked up some all-stars to help the team in its conquest in 2004. The Eagles acquired wide receiver Terrell Owens from the 49ers to provide a consistent target for quarterback Donovan McNabb. Owens has led

the Eagles in receptions and touchdowns to help them forge their way into the Super Bowl.

The Eagles have also added a huge defensive threat with Jevon Kearse, formerly of the Tennessee Titans. Kearse supplied the Eagles with a much needed pass rush defense and his presence helped spark the Eagles to the top defensive team in the NFC.

The Patriots, on the other hand, continue to dominate in every game they play and had only two losses this season. With all-stars like Tom Brady and Corey Dillon at the core of the team, it is difficult not to come out every year and be deemed as a threat.

The Patriots beat Peyton Manning and the Colts in the AFC championship to continue their reign.

They also beat the Pittsburgh Steelers, who boasted the best record in the NFL. With so much experience at winning key games, the big question is, "Can the Patriots be beaten?"

Injuries have been a bigger factor

in this year's Super Bowl than ever before. Owens, who is recovering from an ankle injury and missed every playoff game, is still questionable for the Super Bowl. Owens continues to work to overcome his injury, and despite doctor recommendation, is determined to play in Sunday's game. Only time will tell if he will be ready by game time.

Also on the list of injuries is Chad Lewis, Eagles tight end, who was hurt in the NFC Championship game against the Atlanta Falcons. The Eagles signed Jeff Thomson to help contribute in Lewis' stead.

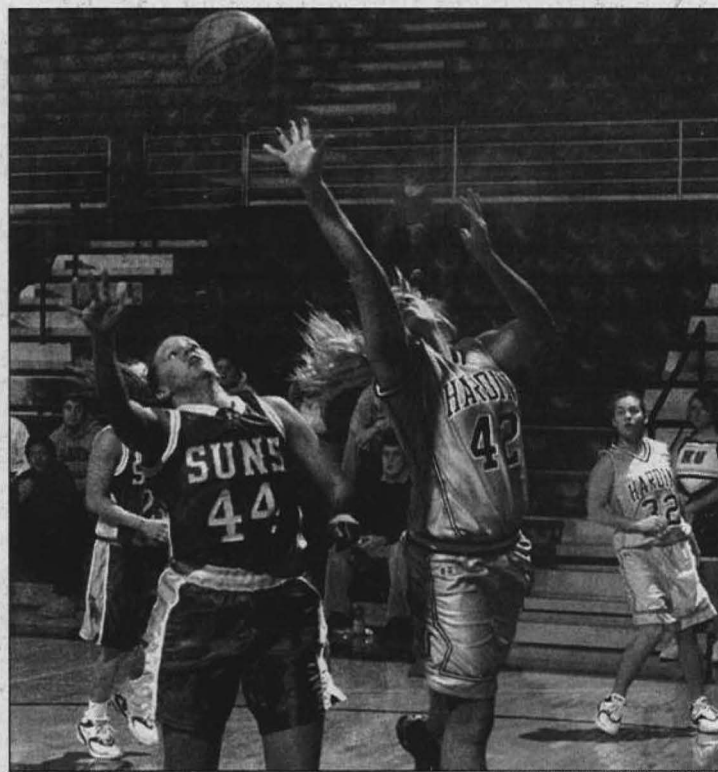
The Patriots have had their share of injuries with defensive backs Ty Law and Tyrone Poole both suffering from injuries.

The Super Bowl is not just about the game anymore. The halftime show and the commercials provide entertainment as well.

Commercials for this year's Super Bowl are averaging between \$2.4 and \$2.5 million for a 30-second spot.

The Ameriquest Mortgage Half-time Show will feature former Beatle Paul McCartney.

The game can be viewed Sunday, Feb. 6, on Fox at 5:30 p.m. ■



CHELSEA ROBERSON/The Bison

Making the stretch

Freshman Lesley-Anne Hanson reaches to grab the ball from an Arkansas Tech University opponent Jan. 27 during the Lady Bisons 61-40 loss. The Lady Bisons and Bisons travel to the University of Arkansas-Monticello Feb. 7.

Athletes show strength on and off court

STACEY CONDOLORA
student reporter

Sixteen Harding athletes were named to the Gulf South Conference's 2004 Fall All-Academic Teams. For the second year in a row, students from the football, soccer, cross country and volleyball programs have shown that they are strong not only on the field but in the classroom as well.

Randy Tribble, head football coach, said he and the other coaches monitor grades, but that many of the players are good at keeping their grades up.

"We try to stay up with their classes and stay aware of those who need help," Tribble said. "We're blessed that a lot of these guys are very self-motivated. I think they know they can make that degree worth a whole lot of money or nothing at all."

Tribble said the NCAA requires the school to give team members a day off each week.

"We take off Mondays so that they can get their academic week off to a really good start," he said. "We tell them to use the time to catch up on their homework and get a head-start on what they need to get done that week."

Keith Giboney, head volleyball coach, said most of his players have a history of good academics and, therefore, encourage each other to stay on top of their course work.

"I think there is a positive peer pressure among the team to make good grades because they all have a good academic background," Giboney said.

Giboney said he also encourages the players in their classes, among other things.

"I always tell them: God, education, volleyball, in that order," Giboney said.

Giboney said he was not surprised that so many Harding athletes were honored as all-academic.

"Being students at a private school, academics are stressed," Giboney said. "If you win on the playing field and you win in the classroom, I think that is the best of both worlds, and I think that is one of Harding's bragging rights."

Senior Leanne Lackey, a member of the volleyball team, said keeping a good GPA during the season is sometimes difficult because of the classes that have to be missed.

"It's hard because we go on road trips all of the time, and we miss a lot of classes," Lackey said.

"But our teachers are usually

very understanding."

Lackey said the players bring their work on those trips and have study time.

"We bring everything that we have to do on the bus with us," Lackey said.

Senior Zach Johnson, a member of the men's soccer team, said he does not think it is difficult to manage his athletic and school schedules.

"It's no different than if you were working a lot of hours at a job," Johnson said.

Johnson admits that it isn't always easy to keep up.

"The soccer season is so crammed in the first two months that when you get to midterms, your grades are slipping, but then you slow down and work hard, pulling through in the last half of the semester," Johnson said.

Senior Reed Fisher, a member of the men's cross country team, said this was his third academic honor in the GSC.

"It's an honor, and my parents got really excited about it," Fisher said. "But to me, I've always put academics first and expect myself to do well." ■

"It's no different than if you were working a lot of hours at a job."

ZACH JOHNSON,
SENIOR

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Rhodes field house not on ESPN's radar

Rock Chalk, Jayhawk, KU ... I love hearing the student body at the University of Kansas chant those words at the end of a game they are about to win.

Seeing the sea of red and blue in Allen field house and watching the fans cheer for their team while they try to intimidate the opponent is one of the most entertaining parts of watching college basketball on ESPN.

Every college's fans have their own way of supporting the home team while annoying the visiting team to the point that it can't function like normal. Schools are known for their fan base, and each one has its own special qualities.

Kansas fans line up outside of Allen field house two hours before the game, especially when their beloved Jayhawks are taking on rival University of Missouri. During that game, the intensity multiplies as fans put on their best game faces.

During every televised game, sports announcers mention the fans at least once, recognizing the effort that they put forth to support their team.

But in my opinion, they have yet to recognize one of the best fan bases in the country.

During the past two weeks, I have heard rumors saying that ESPN was coming to the Rhodes field house to broadcast the last home game of the year.

Apparently, quite a few students have written to ESPN in hopes of getting the network's attention and motivating it to travel to Searcy, Ark., to discover what we all know and love — our Bisons and their Rowdies.

Several factors already make the Feb. 26 game bigger than a 'nor-



From the Bleachers

mal' Bison basketball game.

First, it is the last game of the year, so everyone will be there to enjoy the game and cheer on the Bisons one last time before next season.

Second, the Bisons will be playing Henderson State, and for those of you who don't know, Henderson is one of our biggest rivals and always promises strong competition.

Third, that weekend is also Bison Daze, so the Rhodes will be filled with high school students.

I can only imagine what the already energetic atmosphere would be like if ESPN cameras were added to that mix.

The Rhodes would be full, and fans would be turned away at the door. Black-out night would be a must, and a record number of Rowdies would paint their faces to match.

Unfortunately, it appears that Dick Vitale won't be joining the Rowdies anytime soon.

While our fans may be some of the best, I can only assume that smaller schools are not on their radar screen.

"ESPN markets and advertisers to a national audience," Scott Goode, sports information director said. "Despite the electrifying atmosphere created by fans like the Rhodes Rowdies, ESPN cannot sell enough national advertising to justify televising any NCAA Division II game other than the national championship." ■



JEFF MONTGOMERY/Public Relations

Senior Brandon Grice slides into second base during the Feb. 1 game against Central Baptist University. The Bisons swept the doubleheader against CBU by scores of 11-0 and 19-3.

Baseball begins '05 season

Young team prepares to improve last year's record

AUSTIN LIGHT
student reporter

The Bison baseball team wrapped up 2004 with its fifth consecutive winning season with a record of 25-22, just shy of a spot in the Gulf South Conference playoffs.

After winning the season's first two games against Central Baptist University by scores of 11-0 and 19-3, the Bisons are looking to secure a spot in the playoffs in 2005.

"Our goals are two-fold," head coach Shane Fullerton said. "We always want to make it to the conference tournament at the end of the season, but we want to win all of the little battles too. We have 1,000 little battles to win within that big overall goal."

Fullerton said the team has been hard at work since the first day of classes last semester.

Following NCAA rules, the team practiced in groups of four, or as a team when they could, in order to keep in shape.

"We have had an entire semester that we have used to prepare for the season in the spring," Fullerton said. "Our practices started on the first day of classes. We practiced three times a week at 5:30 in the morning during the fall and the guys worked hard all semester."

The team was responsible for keeping in shape over the Christmas break and went back to work as soon as they returned to school.

"When we got back from break, we concentrated on fundamentals and on team-oriented practices," Fullerton said. "For the past three weeks, we've worked on plays that we may use in a game and just gotten ourselves ready to start the season."

With more than 10 freshmen joining this year's team, and a strong group of upperclassmen, the team is excited about the coming season.

"We have a large group of returning seniors that will really lead our team," Fullerton said.

"There are a lot of freshmen and junior college players on our team this year as well. At any given point in time we may have four or five new players on the field. That may scare a lot of people, but we're excited about it, and I know they'll all do well."

Freshman Casey Benincosa is one of the freshmen to join the Bisons this year.

"It's always been a dream of mine to play college baseball," Benincosa said. "I'm excited to play with these guys. We have an awesome team, and the leadership from the upperclassmen is amazing; they have really helped us play better than when we did

in high school."

Senior Gilberto Valdez said the new team members are easy to work with, and he looks forward to seeing them in action.

"They're all really hard workers, which is a positive thing because they get the job done," Valdez said. "The team is looking really good this year."

Along with the new team members, the Bisons will also welcome the chance to play in their renovated ballpark and facilities, which include storage buildings, concession stands, locker rooms, bathrooms, a press box and grandstands. The renovations have been made over the last two years.

"Our guys love the new park and everything that has been added," Fullerton said. "It's been a few years coming, but it's one of the best places to play in our conference and maybe even in Arkansas."

"We really appreciate everyone who helped make it all possible. We're proud of it."

The Bisons continue their season at home Feb. 11 as they take on Southwest Baptist University at 3 p.m. ■

"We have a large group of returning seniors that will really lead our team."

Shane Fullerton,
HEAD COACH



SPORTS CHALLENGE

Congratulations to last week's Sports Challenge winner, junior Thomas Hanson. Hanson wins two pizza buffets from Pizza Pro for the second week in a row. This week's tie breaker is Sunday's Super Bowl between the New England Patriots and the Philadelphia Eagles. Fill out the information below and check off your picks for the games (including the exact score of the tie breaker), then rip this form out of the paper and drop it in the Sports Challenge box on the ledge next to the Post Office windows. Good luck!

Name _____
Box # _____
Phone # _____

NCAA Basketball

Georgia Tech @ Duke _____
Kentucky @ Vanderbilt _____
Michigan St. @ Iowa _____
Oklahoma St. @ Baylor _____
UCLA @ Washington _____

NBA Basketball

Orlando @ Boston _____
Detroit @ New Jersey _____
Houston @ Minnesota _____
San Francisco (Golden State) @ Denver _____
Los Angeles @ Philadelphia _____

Tie Breaker:

NFL Football

Guess the exact score of Sunday's Super Bowl

New England vs. Philadelphia _____

*Editors picks are in bold

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Class of '97

Unsung Heroes of Harding



CHELSEA ROBERSON

To See and
Be Seen

Take the time to notice

I am sure you've seen them around. They're the people cleaning up after us, holding open our doors, stuffing our mailboxes, washing our dishes, and doing all sorts of things that can sometimes go unnoticed if you're not looking.

They are the unsung heroes of Harding.

I wanted to recognize and say thank you to these wonderful people.

For instance, have you ever noticed how the door to the student center magically stays open while everyone is herding through to grab a chicken biscuit or a cup of coffee after chapel?

His name is Jedidiah Knight, a sophomore at Harding. He appropriately goes by the nickname "Jedi" and uses his human force to hold that door

open every day for us.

I asked him why he holds the door for us day after day, and he simply said, "If you can help someone smile, then why not?"

I asked him why he holds the door for us day after day, and he simply said, "If you can help someone smile, then why not?"

What a fantastic reason to prop that glass door open each day. Thank you, Jedidiah Knight.

You are truly an unsung hero of Harding.

Have you ever wondered where all your dirty dishes go and how they get so clean?

Billy Coradine, the utility supervisor, is just one of the several workers on the receiving end of the belt working to scrape the leftover Aramark food from our plates.

Stepping into the abyss of soapy, hot water, half-eaten hamburgers and the meanest looking garbage disposal I've ever seen has given me a new perspective of these unseen faces — and what they put up with every day for us.

Thank you, Mr. Coradine, and everyone else who helps out back there. You are all truly unsung heroes.

And then there is Murlean Tammell. She is an amazing custodial staff member who has been working in Stephens Hall for 26 and a half years.

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday I walk into my dorm after class and see her cleaning the hallways. She's always been of interest to me, but I never took the time to sit down and talk to her.

She said she has seen many girls go in and out of that dorm, and after so many years, still thinks that Harding "is a wonderful place to be."

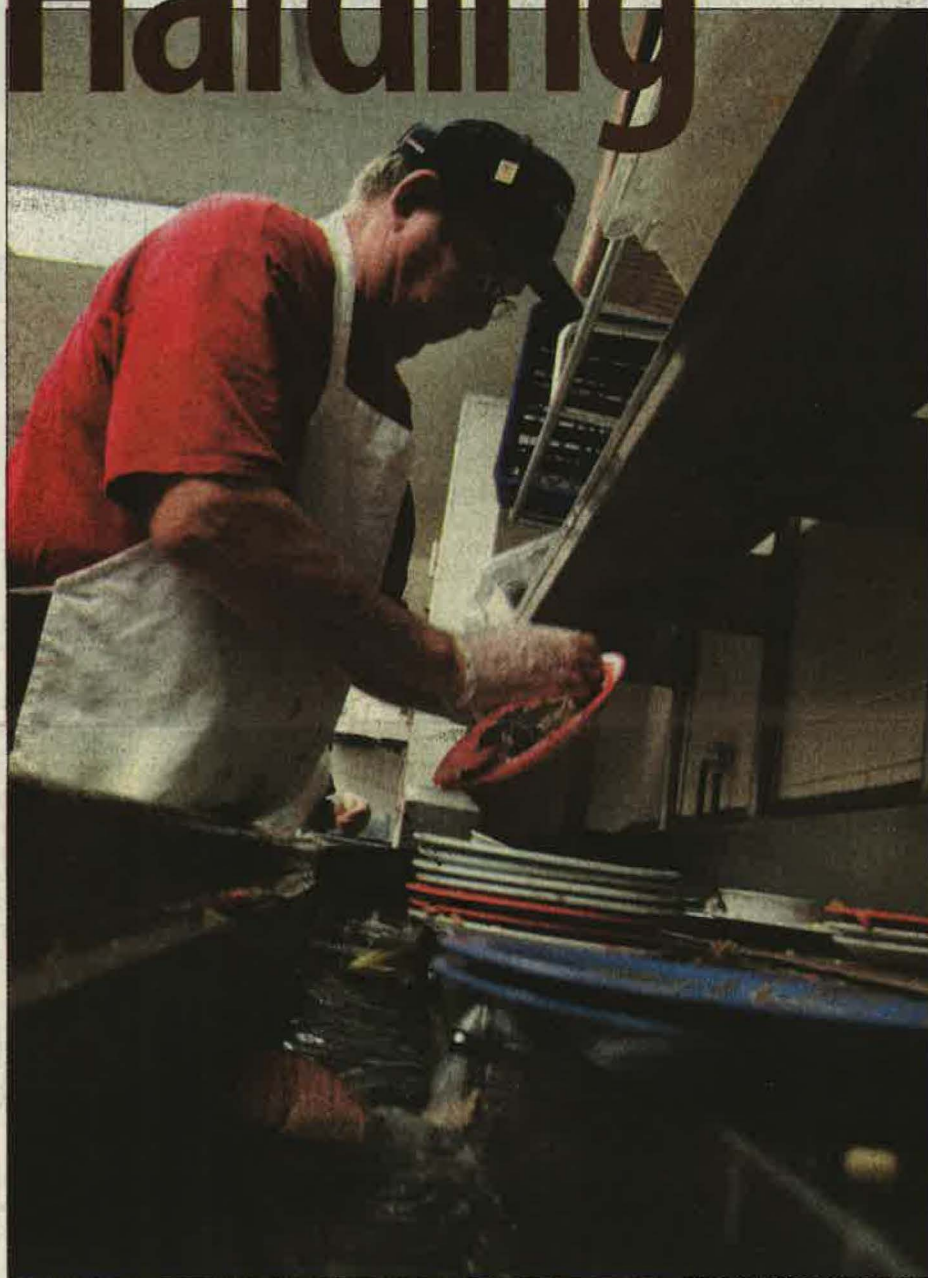
Thanks, Mrs. Tammell. You've put up with us roaming your halls and you still love it.

Next comes Van Vallery. He's one of the wonderful characters in the student center that mops, sweeps, wipes and picks up after us every day. He can often be seen with a jovial smile on his face, wearing his old, red trucking jacket from his truck-driving days, and working around the masses of students every day.

Thank you, Mr. Vallery. Not only do you clean up our messes, but you also do it with a smile.

For all the "good Samaritans" who daily take the time and make the effort to make a difference, here's a "thank-you" from a grateful heart.

CHELSEA ROBERSON is a sophomore advertising major and the 2004-2005 Bison photographer. She will continue "Through the Lens" for the rest of the year. She can be reached at 501-279-4696 or croberso@harding.edu.



CHELSEA ROBERSON/The Bison

Utility Supervisor Billy Coradine scrapes food remnants off of a plate in the cafeteria dish room Jan. 31. Coradine has worked at Harding for two years.

Van Vallery pushes a trash bin across the student center Feb. 1. Vallery has worked at Harding for more than a year, and was previously a truck driver for 42 years.



CHELSEA ROBERSON/The Bison



CHELSEA ROBERSON/The Bison

Sophomore Jedidiah Knight holds the student center door open for students after chapel Feb. 2. Knight, who holds the door every day, says that holding the door open is a good way to start his day.



CHELSEA ROBERSON/The Bison

Murlean Tammell takes a break in the Stephens' lobby Feb. 2. Tammell has worked as the housekeeper in Stephens for more than 26 years.